

REMARKS

The present application is a National Stage Application of PCT/EP03/15006, which was filed on December 8, 2003, and has 56 original claims.

Claims 1-56 are pending. Claim is canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-55 are amended, in order to place the claims in better conformance with US patent practice. Claim 57 is added, and is based on original Claim 54.

No new matter is believed to be added upon entry of the amendment.

Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1-55 and 57 will be active.

An action on the merits and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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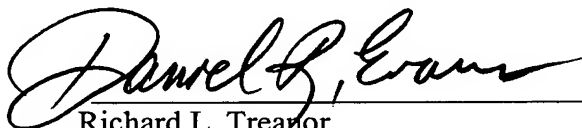
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